

Taylor Bennett

Aug 31st 2018

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I'm writing to oppose the petition from the US Telecom Association, which represents large telecoms such as AT&T, that seeks to block independent competitive carriers from renting their copper lines to serve local and rural customers with high-quality internet and telephone services. There is already too little competitive choice in internet access and telecom services, and if the petition is approved, independent carriers across the country will lose access to critical network elements, and consumers could lose their choice of providers. It will also eliminate or delay access to high-speed internet for many rural customers.

I chose my local internet provider because they provide excellent local services at a reasonable cost. Before I switched to my local carrier, LMI.net, Comcast had more than doubled the cost of my high-speed internet access. Because of their ability to rent unbundled network elements, including copper wires and surplus fiber capacity under the 1996 Telecommunications Act, my local internet company can provide competitive high-speed broadband internet access at a competitive cost.

The major telecom companies seek to eliminate copper wiring from their networks, which is critical for maintaining telecom services in rural areas, access to emergency notifications, and providing clear, high-quality voice telecommunications.

Please vote against the petition from the US Telecom Association which if approved would limit my choice of affordable, local carriers for high-speed internet and telephone services.

Sincerely,

Taylor Bennett